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2007-05852/

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2007FOR0128-001128
Sept. 14, 2007

Ministry of Forests and Range
Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd.

$1 MILLION TO STRENGTHEN VALUE-ADDED WOOD INDUSTRY

VICTORIA – The provincial government today announced an expanded program to help value-added wood product manufacturers update their business planning, technology and marketing activities, said Forests and Range Minister Rich Coleman today.

"We're investing in B.C.'s value-added sector because we recognize the importance of these small businesses in forestry communities," said Coleman. "The funds will help these operators get access to essential business development advice, which will help them develop new products and market them around the world."

The value-added program will provide over 700 wood product companies in B.C. with access to advisory services for business development and expansion. More than half of these companies are small businesses, with 15 employees or less.

The program is a partnership between BC Wood and FP Innovations (Forintek division), and managed by Forestry Innovation Investment Ltd. (FII). FII has also provided another $12 million to help trade associations and others conduct 56 projects this year to market B.C.'s wood, and to develop markets internationally. This work includes $1.59 million for mountain pine beetle-related projects.

"B.C. is increasingly recognized as the world leader in forest management and the manufacture of top quality wood products," said Grant McKinnon, president and chair of BC Wood Specialties Group (BC Wood) and partner, Pacific Building Systems. "The new value-added program will further strengthen B.C.'s value-added industry."

BC Wood is a secondary manufacturing industry association focused on building demand for manufactured wood products. Forintek is Canada's national wood products research institute. It delivers technology transfer initiatives that help value-added wood manufacturers improve their competitiveness through the development of new products and manufacturing processes.

By combining the expertise of these two organizations, the value-added program will provide manufacturers with a single point of access to these programs and other business development programs that will help expand B.C.'s value-added industry.

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The B.C. specialty wood products manufacturing sector had sales of $4 85 billion last year and employed 19,600 people processing the round wood equivalent of approximately 25 million cubic metres. Companies produce a wide range of value-added products including: doors, window, cabinetry, manufactured homes, custom furniture, engineered wood products, and log homes.

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